

By: King of Taylor

H.C.R. No. 140

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In the latter part of the 19th century, African
2 American army personnel performed heroic service on the Texas
3 frontier, as well as elsewhere in the Southwest and on the Great
4 Plains; and

5 WHEREAS, Called Buffalo Soldiers by the Plains Indians, the
6 men belonged to African American units that had been created in the
7 aftermath of the Civil War; in 1866, Congress authorized the
8 establishment of six black regiments, the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry
9 and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st U.S. Infantry; the latter four
10 units were consolidated in 1869 into the 24th and 25th U.S.
11 Infantry; and

12 WHEREAS, Cavalry and infantry units of the Buffalo Soldiers
13 served in Texas from 1867 to 1885; often stationed at isolated
14 posts, they patrolled the frontier, escorted mail carriers, built
15 roads, and performed a number of other duties; and

16 WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers also fought with valor in most of
17 the major campaigns of the period, seeing combat against the
18 Cheyenne, Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Sioux, and Arapaho; during the
19 Indian Wars, 13 Buffalo Soldiers won the Medal of Honor, the
20 nation's highest military award; five more were accorded that
21 prestigious decoration during the Spanish-American War; and

22 WHEREAS, Elements of the Buffalo Soldier regiments also
23 helped to suppress the Philippine Insurrection and took part in
24 General John J. Pershing's Punitive Expedition; during World War

1 II, the 9th and 10th Cavalry were disbanded and their personnel
2 transferred to other units; the 25th Infantry fought in the Pacific
3 and was deactivated in 1949, while the 24th Infantry fought in the
4 Pacific and the opening stages of the Korean War before being
5 deactivated in 1951; and

6 WHEREAS, Notable officers who served with the Buffalo
7 Soldiers included Henry O. Flipper, the first African American to
8 graduate from West Point, as well as Benjamin H. Grierson, Abner
9 Doubleday, William R. Shafter, Joseph A. Mower, and Edward Hatch;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Public interest in the Buffalo Soldiers was
12 rekindled in the 1960s by a John Ford film, *Sergeant Rutledge*, and
13 by the publication of several scholarly histories; in the 1990s,
14 assisted by the Soldiers in Blue Committee of Abilene, the Texas
15 Parks and Wildlife Department launched a statewide educational
16 program that now works with a network of local Buffalo Soldier
17 reenactment and living history groups; the Texas Buffalo Soldiers
18 community program of the TPWD has reached many young people across
19 Texas, introducing them to the story of these African American
20 soldiers and also to the history of Hispanic vaqueros, Native
21 Americans, frontier women, and other cultural groups of that era;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The TPWD has also created the Texas Buffalo Soldiers
24 Heritage Trail project, the initial plan for which was conceived by
25 Dr. A. C. Jackson and Gloria Jackson of Abilene, James and Robbyne
26 Fuller of Midland, Eric Strong of Lubbock, and TPWD staff member Ken
27 Pollard; the objective of the project is to promote heritage

1 tourism while encouraging the preservation of significant sites and
2 properties associated with the Buffalo Soldiers and other frontier
3 minorities in Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, A number of events related to the Buffalo Soldiers
5 are scheduled for each July, which was designated Buffalo Soldiers
6 Heritage Month by the 76th Texas Legislature; and

7 WHEREAS, Through their bravery and devotion to duty, the
8 Buffalo Soldiers contributed significantly to the development of
9 the Lone Star State and reflected honor on the army of this nation,
10 and their story is indeed deserving of special recognition; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby commemorate the courageous service of the Buffalo Soldiers
14 and encourage all Texans to acquaint themselves with the
15 outstanding history of their regiments.